

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** June 16, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on June 9, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Unilateral Administrative Order and Action Memo issued for  
Sauget Area 1 - Dead Creek Site, Cahokia, Illinois**

On May 31, 2000, a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) and Action Memo were issued by Region 5 to both Monsanto Company and Solutia, Inc. to conduct a time-critical removal action within Dead Creek at the Sauget Area 1 site in Sauget and Cahokia, Illinois. The UAO and Action Memo require Monsanto and Solutia to excavate approximately 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from a 2-mile stretch of Dead Creek. The creek sediments are contaminated with high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, heavy metals, and a variety of volatile organic compounds. The creek flows through a residential area in the village of Cahokia and is very prone to flooding during storm events. Monsanto and Solutia are also required to design and construct a Toxic Substances Control Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act disposal cell next to the northern end of the creek to dispose of the contaminated sediments. Long-term maintenance of the cell will be the responsibility of Solutia. The UAO requires work to begin within the next 6 months.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)  
Mike McAteer (312-886-4663)  
Tom Martin (312-886-4273)

**Semi-Annual Groundwater Sampling Completed at the Northside Landfill Superfund Site, Zionsville, Indiana**

During May, 2000, sampling of nine groundwater monitoring wells was completed at the Northside Landfill (NSL) Superfund site in Zionsville, Indiana. The semi-annual monitoring program includes taking water level measurements, purging, and sampling the site groundwater wells for laboratory analysis.

The Northside Landfill site is currently in operation and maintenance. A summary of the completed remedial action components at NSL include a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste performance cap; a hydraulic isolation wall on the south and west sides of the landfill; a combined leachate/onsite groundwater collection system; a transfer station building for collection and storage of leachate/onsite groundwater to be trucked for disposal to an offsite treatment plant; a groundwater and leachate monitoring program to assure that offsite migration doesn't occur; and access restrictions such as a site fence.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Administrative Complaints Filed Against Three Weiler Companies, Marshfield, Wisconsin**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5, has filed three separate administrative complaints against Weiler Enterprises and Weiler Fuels (Marshfield, Wisconsin) for violating the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulation (40 CFR 112) as required by the Clean Water Act. A fine of \$368,677 has been proposed.

Weiler operated bulk fuel facilities at three different locations without preparing or implementing SPCC plans as required by the regulation. Two of these sites have been closed down and one is currently in operation. In addition,

two of the three facilities were charged with discharging oil into drainage ditches which flowed to nearby creeks and to the Wisconsin River.

Under the SPCC provisions of the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA can assess penalties of up to \$137,500 for each of the three administrative actions. The cited facility must answer the

complaints or request a settlement meeting to discuss the charges within 30 days.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

#### **Emergency Response, Mercury Discovery, McHenry, Illinois**

On June 5, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Sam Borries responded to an elemental mercury discovery in a residential home in McHenry, Illinois. Approximately 4 pounds of mercury were recovered and disposed of by the Emergency and Rapid Response Services Contractor. A Jerome Mercury Vapor Analyzer was used to monitor the house for mercury exposure. The air monitoring instrument did not detect any elevated mercury vapors in the residential home.

Contact: Sam Borries (312-353-2886)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Counterterrorism Field Exercise, Chicago, Illinois**

On June 8, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Len Zintak attended the Domestic Preparedness Chemical Weapon Functional Exercise at Comiskey Park in Chicago, Illinois. The Domestic Preparedness Program is funded by the Department of Defense and provides counterterrorism response training for over 120 cities across the country. The Comiskey Park exercise simulated a Sarin release in the stadium which affected 200 simulated victims. This exercise simulated the Crisis Management Phase of an incident and included chemical identification, evidence collection, and mass casualty decontamination. Numerous local, State, and Federal agencies participated in the exercise.

Contact: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

**Oil Pollution Act Training Conferences, St. Petersburg, Florida**

On May 23-24, 2000, the U.S. Coast Guard, National Pollution Funds Center, hosted their annual Funds Use Seminar in St. Petersburg, Florida. Isalee Coleman-Fisher and Beth A. Henning attended for Region 5. The seminar focused on various aspects of the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, including use of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, financial management of spill events, as well as removal costs and damage claims under the OPA. The seminar also highlighted the Certificate of Financial Responsibility Program for certain tonnage vessels. A case study based upon a spill scenario in the Houston Ship Channel brought together all aspects of the seminar for the participants.

Contacts: Beth A. Henning (312-886-5892)  
Isalee Coleman-Fisher (312-886-7597)

**Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Presentation, Akron Bar Association's Environmental Law Committee, Akron, Ohio**

On May 17, 2000, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Coordinator, spoke before the Akron Bar Association's Environmental Law committee. The Committee is largely comprised of private practice Attorneys specializing in environmental law. Local Environmental Consultants and Engineers were also in attendance.

The topic of the meeting was regulatory developments for the SPCC rule, 40 CFR 112. Revisions to the SPCC regulation have been proposed in 1991, 1993, and 1997. A workgroup, comprised of each Regional SPCC Coordinator and chaired by Headquarters (HQ) staff, has worked over the past three years to develop a final SPCC regulation. Pending approval by the Office of Management and Budget and HQ, the new regulation is expected to be published in the Federal Register later this fall. The Environmental Law Committee was given a summary of the proposed changes to the regulation as well as the estimates of the reduction in burden (in time and labor) that the facility owners and operators would benefit when the revised rule becomes finalized.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

**Region 5 Conference on Issues Concerning Tier II Reporting,  
Chicago, Illinois**

On June 1-2, 2000, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP) hosted a meeting of Region 5 States to discuss issues relating to mandated reporting under Sections 302 and 311-312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Primary concerns were improving State databases, promoting electronic submission of data, and making State databases available to emergency planners and responders in the Computer Aided Management Emergency Operations (CAMEO) format. Although all Region States plan aggressive action in each of these areas, enough dissimilarities exist in individual States' programs so as to preclude concerted action. Michigan is using an electronic data submission program that is currently receiving submissions from about 20% of reporters representing approximately 80% of reported chemical inventories. All Region States plan to adopt the Michigan model in some format. OCEPP is investigating actions that it can take to help speed the process.

The concept of sharing of State databases with CAMEO end-users also received strong support. As one attendee put it, "It is time that we move Local Emergency Planning Committees and Fire Departments out of the business of data management so that they can devote their efforts to their real business which is planning and emergency response."

Contact: Mark Horwitz (312-353-9045)

**Workshop Presentation on Computer Aided Management Emergency  
Operations at Indiana Hazardous Materials Conference,  
Greenwood, Indiana**

On June 6-7, 2000, John Elkmann, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, made a workshop presentation on the Computer Aided Management Emergency Operations (CAMEO) program at the Indiana Hazardous Materials Conference held in Greenwood, Indiana. John's presentation included an overview of CAMEO and its related software for new users and a program update for current users.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

**Meeting, U.S. EPA/Technology Innovation Office, Chicago,**

**Illinois**

On May 31, 2000, the U.S. EPA Post Construction Completion (PCC) groundwater team and the Technology Innovation Office (TIO) co-hosted a meeting with representatives from the Navy, Air Force, Army Corps of Engineers, and several TIO contractors on a pilot project regarding optimization of long term monitoring programs. The pilot project will be using several Region 5 sites to evaluate geostatistical techniques for potential long term monitoring optimization. Pilot site analysis will be occurring over the summer with the overall project scheduled for completion early next year with the results of geostatistical evaluations potentially assisting in evaluating long term monitoring programs for Region 5 PCC.

Contact: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
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